



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,107	03/28/2001	Tien-Chen Hu	67,200-364	2312
7590	11/04/2003		EXAMINER	
TUNG & ASSOCIATES 838 W. Long Lake Road, Suite 120 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302			MCDONALD, SHANTESE L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3723	

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2003

S

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/820,107	Applicant(s) Hu et al.
	Examiner McDonald, Shantese
	Art Unit 3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 29, 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6, 8-10, and 12-18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6, 8-10, and 12-18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 3723

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 12-14 are dependant upon rejected claim 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5,8-10 and 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Pant et al..

Pant et al. teaches a linear chemical mechanical polishing apparatus equipped with a programmable pneumatic support platen, 25, comprising a wafer carrier, 17, for holding and rotating a wafer mounted thereon with a first surface to be polished exposed and facing downwardly, a continuous belt, 12, for mounting a plurality of polishing pads, 15, a motor means for providing rotational motion of the belt, a support platen situated to a bottom surface of the belt corresponding to a position of the wafer carrier so as to force the polishing pad against the first surface of the wafer, the support platen having a plurality of apertures , arranged in at least six concentric circles, (col. 7, lines 14-26), controlled in at least three zones with each zone

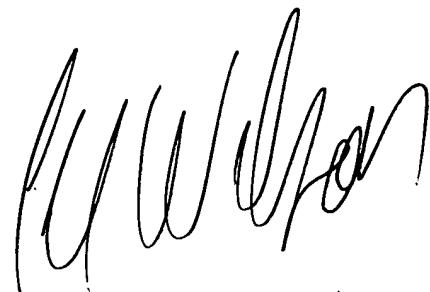
Art Unit: 3723

controlling a plurality of openings int he same concentric circle, (col. 7, lines 27-41), in communication with a gas source through the plurality of apertures, (col. 9, line 2). Pant et al. also teaches a pressure detector and a flow regulator for each of the at least three zones, and a process controller for detecting and regulating a pressure and a flow of the gas flow, (col. 7, line 66- col. 8, line 48). Pant et al. teaches all the limitations of the claims except for the plurality of openings having different diameters, each of the plurality of openings having a diameter of about 0.1 mm to 10 mm, and the gas being nitrogen. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide the invention of Pant et al. with a plurality of openings having different diameters, each of the plurality of openings having a diameter of about 0.1 mm to 10 mm, and the gas being nitrogen, since, the Pant reference states that the dimensions and shapes of the openings, are a design choice dictated by the particular design of the polisher, (col. 5, lines 60-62), and since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In reference to the gas being nitrogen, it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of design choice.

Art Unit: 3723

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 and 16-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shantese McDonald whose telephone number is (703) 308-8722.



N
PRIMARY EXAMINER

LEE D. WILSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

S.L.M.

November 2, 2003